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SUBJECT: IRELAND FOLLOWS IRAQ POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT WITH AID  
PLEDGE

REF: STATE 3592

(SBU) On January 11, Charge d'Affaires and Pol/Econ Chief discussed reftel guidance on Iraq policy with Dermot Gallagher, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary General, and Michael Gaffey, DFA Middle East and North Africa Division Director. Gallagher cited a January 11 announcement by Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern that Ireland had pledged an additional euro 3 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to Iraq, which would be channeled through the UN, the Red Cross, and NGOs to externally and internally displaced families. The pledge, he added, represented a significant increase on the euro 7.9 million that Ireland had already provided for humanitarian relief in Iraq. (Comment: The timing of Ireland's assistance pledge can probably be taken as a signal of GOI support for the overall thrust of the new U.S. strategy in Iraq.) Gallagher observed that the GOI would continue to follow the new U.S. strategy as it unfolded, particularly the level of support offered by the U.S. Congress.  
BENTON